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NORTHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946

February, 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the
Northampton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1946 upon the health of the Rural District.

Area in acres	50,010
Population (1946)	17,600
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books	4,980
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1946.	£ 122,521
Product of 1d. Rate, 1946/47	£ 497 19 4

Live births: total 340 - male 170 female 170
Legitimate - male 162 female 159
Illegitimate - male 8 female 11
Still births: total 6 - male 4 female 2
(all legitimate)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population - 19.3
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population for England and Wales - 19.1

Deaths total 174 - male 87 female 87
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population - 9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population for England and Wales - 11.5

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal Causes.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age - male 8 female 4 (all legitimate)
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 32: Male 14 female 18
There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough or diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

Suicide	Male 1	female -
Road traffic accidents	Male 2	female -
Other Violent causes	Male -	female 2

Nephritis 5 male, 7 female; Diabetes 0; Cerebral Haemorrhage 9 male, 0 female; Heart Disease 26 male, 28 female; Bronchitis 2 male, 2 female; Pneumonia, 5 male, 3 female; Influenza 1 male, 1 female.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) Medical Officer of Health	H. F. Percival, O.B.E., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor	R. J. Miller, A.I.A.S., M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.
Assistants	C. Rhodes, D.P.A.(Lond), M.R.San.I.
	R. R. Haylett, A.R.San.I.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Services are still being carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Northampton General Hospital.
(b) Ambulance Services - St. John Ambulance, King Street, Northampton, removes all ordinary cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin can always be obtained for use in the District by applying to the Dispenser at the Northampton General Hospital.

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Duston and Hackleton.

There have been 11 sessions at each village. Average attendances at Duston are 41, and Hackleton 37 per session.

Hospitals.

Northampton General Hospital is available for medical and surgical cases and maternity cases.

Isolation Hospital - The hospital at Staverton has had to be closed. Cases requiring admission to hospital are now sent to the Harborough Road Hospital belonging to the Northampton Corporation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

A piped water supply is urgently needed throughout the whole District. With very few exceptions many of the villages tend to run short of water in the summer, especially if there has not been sufficient winter rain to fill the springs and wells.

Since the last printed Annual Report, i.e. for 1938, the only improvements carried out have been:

(1) At Wootton - extension by the Northampton Corporation of their mains to and through the Parish. This was only after some years of delay by the Corporation, and then only after strong pressure by the District Council.

(2) Yardley Hastings - purchase by the Council of the Compton Estates Co's Yardley Chase supply, and extending it to link up with the Yardley Hastings village mains.

(3) Denton - a connecting main from the above-mentioned supply to Denton village reservoir.

Generally the quality of public mains supplies has been satisfactory as shown by the periodic bacteriological examinations. The same cannot be said of many public and private wells.

Again in the summer and autumn months of the year, as has been so since the drought of 1943 and 1944, supplies were very poor.

The adoption by the Council of a comprehensive scheme, formulated and prepared by the Council's Surveyor (referred to more fully elsewhere) would, if in being, have prevented the anxiety and strain of the past few years. But alas its materialisation is not yet.

Sanitation.

The only major and very important improvement since 1938 has been at Wootton, where - in conjunction with the War Office - a complete sewage disposal works was constructed, and agreement made for completion of sewerage throughout the village.

The other village disposal arrangements functioned more or less satisfactorily, but lack of adequate and efficient labour strength was a severe hindrance.

Every effort has been made to keep cleansed as necessary the many drainage ditches in the area.

Collections of night-soil have been maintained with difficulty in the parishes of Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford.

Scavenging.

Throughout the war years, and during the year under review, regular collection of refuse was maintained, and alongside and still continuing - although not to the same extent - is the collection of salvage.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	120
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	150
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 and under Rural Housing Survey	1,482
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1,512
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	NIL
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	120

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	15

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 -

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	NIL
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year: (Continued)

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied — NIL

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners — NIL

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners — NIL

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made — NIL

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders — NIL

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made — NIL

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit — NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV, Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year — 30

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein — 40

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein — ?

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year — NIL

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year — NIL

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases — -

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding — NIL

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. — -

Staff.

The only change during the year in the staff of the Chief Sanitary Inspector was that Mr. R. R. Haylett passed his qualifying examination in December, 1945 and was appointed in May 1946 as a Sanitary Inspector.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The registers, now brought up-to-date, show the following registrations at the end of the year:

Producers and Producer retailers 157: Retailers only 7

Slaughter Houses:

Centralised slaughtering under the Government's war-time scheme

in still in force, and from an administrative and inspectorial aspect it is to be hoped the day is passed of the small scattered independent slaughterhouse, except probably for occasional use.

Number and Nature of Inspections made.

Housing Acts	
(a) Rural Housing Survey	1,362
(b) Houses not in all respects fit for habitation	150
Milk and Dairies Orders	
(a) Inspections of (i) Retail Dairies	-
(ii) Cowkeepers Premises	123
(b) Investigating complains re Milk Supply	-
(c) Milk Samples taken	72
Water Supply	
(a) Water Samples taken	73
(b) Investigating complaints re water supply	95
Public Health Acts etc.	
(a) Infectious Diseases (i) Investigating Cases	18
(ii) Removals to Hospital	9
(iii) Performing Disinfection	23
(iv) Visits to Contacts	18
(b) Scabies (i) Home Treatment	6
(ii) Baths Treatment	19
(c) Verminous Persons, Premises &c.	9
(d) Drains &c. (i) Blocked or defective	71
(ii) Tested	35
(e) General Nuisances (i) Accumulation of Ashes &c.	5
(ii) Tents, Vans & Sheds	17
(iii) Dangerous Structures	2
(iv) Miscellaneous	4
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	42
Petroleum Acts	7
Factories Act, 1937	7
Control of Civil Building	10
Miscellaneous Visits &c.	260
	2,437

Factories Act, 1937 - Part I.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspect^s	No. of written notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	1	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	56	2	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	5	4	-	-
Total	72	7	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Found by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

1. Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31:12:46 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 -9 1937 to 1941	10-14 1932 to 1936	Total under 15
Number immunised	-	116	191	203	178	1014	1347	3049
Estimated mid-year population 1946			1380			2090		

2. Diphtheria notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

1 case notified - Age 2 yrs - which had not completed a full course of immunisation. There were no deaths.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

As for a number of previous years now, the District had a remarkably low record of infectious disease cases, and certainly no epidemics.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1946.

Disease	Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	18	8	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Enteric Fever	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Pneumonia	31 and 1 soldier	-	8
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Dysentry Bacillary	9	-	-
Measles	40	-	-
Whooping Cough	26	-	-
Cerebrospinal Fever	2	1	-

The 4 Enteric Fever cases occurred at Berrywood, also the 9 Bacillary Dysentry cases. The 2 Cerebrospinal cases were both at Duston.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	-
15	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
35	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	9	3	2	4	2	1	1

Two soldiers have been excluded, but 1 prisoner of war in the 25 group has been included.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. PERCIVAL.